

## **REMARKS**

### **Introduction**

Claims 1 - 5 were originally pending in this application. Claims 1 – 5 were cancelled and claims 6 - 18 were added by way of the Preliminary Amendment dated May 17, 2005. Claims 6, 8, 10, and 12 have been amended herein. Similarly, claims 7 and 11 have been cancelled. Thus, claims 6, 8 – 10 and 12 – 18 remain in this application. No new matter has been added.

### **Claim Rejections**

#### **35 U.S.C. § 102**

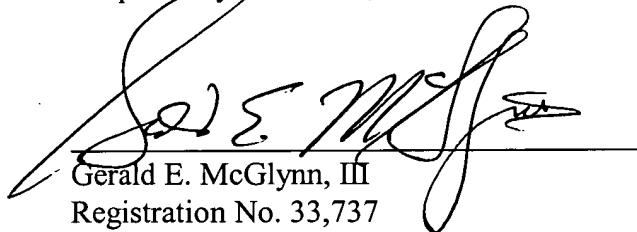
Claims 6 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Nishida et al. ‘288 patent. A claim is said to be anticipated where each and every element of a claim can be found in a single prior art reference. On the other hand, the Examiner indicated that claims 7 – 9 and 11 – 14 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In addition, claims 15 – 18 were allowed in the Office Action dated May 5, 2006.

With the Examiner’s comments in mind, independent claims 6 and 10 have been amended to include the limitations formerly set forth in claims 7 and 11, respectively. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

**Conclusion**

Amended independent claims 6 and 10 each recites structure that is not disclosed or suggested by the prior art and are patentably distinguishable from the subject matter of the references of record in this case. Claims 8 – 9 and 12 – 14 are each ultimately dependent upon independent claims 6 and 10, respectively, and add further perfecting limitations. Claims 15 – 18 have been allowed. In view of the above, applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, clearly distinguish over the prior art and are therefore allowable. Accordingly, applicants respectfully solicit the allowance of the claims pending in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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